

NSC BRIEFING

20 February 1957

KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT

- I. May fall shortly after UN Cyprus debate.
  - A. Major pitch for US support.
  - B. Politicians ready to exploit failure.
  - C. Greeks insist must have new angle from UN treatment.
- II. Bitter debate.
- III. Karamanlis as good as US can expect.
  - A. Extreme nationalist alternative.
  - B. Left-center coalition.
  - C. Communist victory Salonika.

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KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT

I. Karamanlis government may not long survive after UN discussion of the Cyprus issue.

A. Greek prime minister has laid on a major campaign to gain American support.

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B.

C. Karamanlis insists he must have something to show after the UN debates.

1. Resolution introducing a new agency, such as investigating commission, considered minimum.
2. Bland resolution asking "parties to negotiate" might lead to government's resignation.

II. Important figures at the UN trying to get Greeks, Turks, and British to end bitter Cyprus debate with behind-scenes compromise.

A. Turks, British and Greeks all lambasted each other in debate.

B. Prospect is for resolution urging renewed negotiations between "the parties," with private agreement to refer dispute to NATO under "good offices" of Canada.

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III.

- A. If new elections came on the heels of a UN rebuff, extreme nationalists would probably score well.
- B. No political group in Greece strong enough to win except a budding left-center coalition which would have Communist-front support.

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C. Recent municipal election in Salonika suburb produced Communist mayor.

1. Communist candidate won 32 percent of vote in regular election.
2. In run-off between Karamanlis candidate and Communist, non-Communist leaders supported latter.

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